

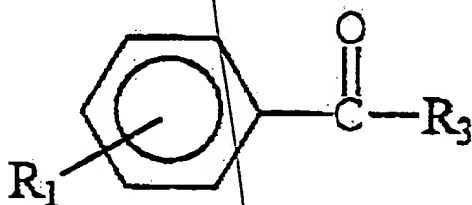
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2-14, as follows.

2. (amended) β -hydroxyalkylamide as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R_1 is H, t-butyl, i-propyl or pentyl and is located in the para position to the CO group.

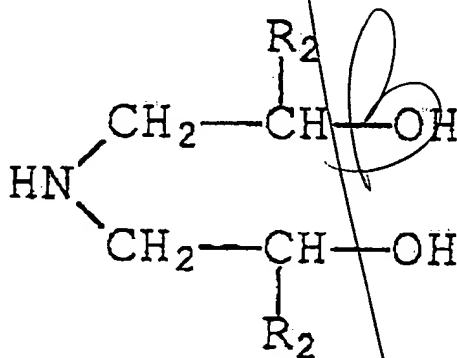
3. (amended) β -hydroxyalkylamide as claimed in Claim 2, wherein R_1 is H and R_2 is CH_3 .

4. (amended) Process for the production of β -hydroxyalkylamides as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II:



II

where R_3 is halogen or OR_4 , whereby R_4 stands for a linear C_1 to C_5 alkyl, is reacted with
an alkanol amine having the general Formula III:



III

and where R_1 and R_2 are defined as indicated above.

5. (amended) Process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II where R_3 is a halogen is reacted at -10 to 25 °C with the alkanol amine having the general Formula III.
6. (amended) Process as claimed in Claim 5, wherein benzoyl chloride is used as the carboxylic acid derivative and diisopropanol amine as the alkanol amine.
7. (amended) Process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II with R_3-OR_4 , where R_2 is as defined above, is reacted at 25 to 150°C with an alkanol amine having the general Formula III.
8. (amended) Process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II and the alkanol amine having the general Formula III are reacted in a solvent with vigorous agitation or stirring.
9. (amended) Process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene or xylene and/or ether are used as the solvent.
10. (amended) Process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the alkanol amine is presented first and the carboxylic acid derivative is added with vigorous agitation or stirring.
11. (amended) A cross-linker for polymers comprising the β -hydroxyalkylamide as claimed in Claim 1.
12. (amended) A cross-linker for polymers comprising the β -hydroxyalkylamide as claimed in Claim 1.
13. (amended) A cross linker for polyester powder coats comprising the β -hydroxyalkylamide